THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) to (c): Allocation of edible oils to the States for PDS is made on month to month basis depending upon demands made by the States/UTs, stock of imported edible oil available with the Government, availability of indigenous oils in the market and prices thereof, and pace of lifting of edible oil allocated to them, earlier. Based on the above considerations, the overall allocation of edible oil was reduced in December, 1989 when the festival months were over and flush season of edible oils commenced. Allocation of oil has now been increased for March, 1990 which is slightly higher than the allocation made during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) The demands of all States is far in excess of the imported edible oil with the Government. The allocation is therefore made on the basis of actual imports. Maharashtra is generally allocated the highest quantity of edile oil in the country.

Prices of onion in Maharashtra

426. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of onion have come down recently from Rs. 250/- to Rs. 90/- per quintal in some districts of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal for purchase of onion under the Market Intervention Scheme to save farmers from heavy losses: and

(d) if so, the details of the time bound programme launched in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The onion prices which were ruling in the range of Rs. 60—Rs. 286 per quintal depending upon the quality of onion during November, 1989 came down to the level of Rs. 40—Rs. 146 per quintal during December, 1989 2nd to Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 per quintal in January, 1990 in some Districts of Maharashtra.

(b) The State Government reported that there had been a bumper crop of onion on account of adequate back up services and favourable climate during the kharif crop of onion.

(c) and (d) To save the farmers from distress sales, the Central Government directed National Agricultural Cooperativ Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) to make purchases of 'Pole' variety of onion under the Market Intervention Scheme @ Rs. 70/- per quintal FAQ in Nasik District w.e.f. 2-1-1990. NAFED purchased 31,781 MTs of onion upto 28-2-1990 under the scheme.

Prices of agricultural produce

427. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan or scheme to compute the prices of agricultural produce on economic grounds and give remunerative prices to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends the procurement/minimum support prices for major agricultural commodities after taking into account not only a comprehensive overview of the

entire structure of a particular commodity but also a number of important economic factors, such as, cost of production, changes in input prices, trends in market prices, demand and supply, inter-crop price parity, effect on general price level and parity between prices received and prices paid by farmers etc. An expert Committee has been set up to examine the methodology for estimation of cost of production of crops, to review the terms of trade between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and to recommend measures to improve the remunerativeness of crop production.

Issue of SC/ST certificates

428. Dr. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued any instructions to various States with regard to issue of caste certificates to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereto;

(c) whether any of the States have sought permission for giving relaxation in these instructons ; and

(d) whether Government of Maharashtra have made request for reconsideration of the definition of ordinary residence ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The silient points of instructions issued to the State Governments/U.T. Administrations for the issue of SC/ST certificates are as follows:—

(i) that the person and his parents actually belong to the community claimed;

(ii) that the community is included in the Presidential Orders specifying the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in relation to the concerned State;

(iii) that the persons belong to that State and to the area within that State in respect of which the community has been scheduled;

(iv) if the person claims to be a Scheduled Caste, he should profess either the Hindu or the Sikh religion;

(v) ift he person claims to be a Scheduled Tribe, he may profess any religion;

(vi) that he should be permanent resident of the State on the date of notification of the Presidential Order applicable in his case;

(vii) Action should be taken against the officials under the reevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code. if any of them is found to have issued certificates carelessly and without proper verification in addition to the action to whom they are liable under the appropriate disciplinary rules applicable to them.

(viii) Action should be taken against non-SC and Non-ST persons holding false SC/ST certificates, deprive them of the benefits that they are entitled to and impose appropriate penalities and legal action against them and against those who were responsible for the issue of such certificates.

(ix) Cerificates will have to be issued by the revenue officials not below the rank of Tahsildar for entry into Central Government services and other benefits.